

## **PROPER LINE DISPOSAL**

As a reminder to all anglers, the improper use and disposal of fishing line can have a dramatic impact on our wildlife. Inappropriately discarded monofilament often accumulates in popular fishing areas and may tangle around boat propellers and aquatic life, while taking over 500 years to decompose. This poses threats to fishermen, the fish they catch and important fish habitat and breeding grounds. Abandoned line can "ghost fish" by continuing to catch aquatic species (e.g., fish, turtles and birds) in makeshift nets for many years.

As a reminder to all anglers, the improper use and disposal of fishing line can have a dramatic impact on our wildlife. Many shore birds, migratory birds, waterfowl and raptors have become entangle in monofilament and died.

Please help reduce the risk of wildlife-related mortalities due to monofilament by:

- Properly dispose of unused monofilament in trash containers.
- Use the appropriate test line for the desired fish and fishing technique
- Replace monofilament yearly to reduce the chance of breaking the line.
- Take the initiative while enjoying Illinois waters — pick up any discarded monofilament and tackle you see along the shore.

Promote the use of Monofilament recycling bins and encourage the collection and recycling of monofilament line. The Berkley Conservation Institute provides a recycling service and has recycled more than 9 million miles of fishing line since 1990. Anglers can mail used monofilament line directly to Berkley's collection center at: Berkley Recycling, 1900 18th Street, Spirit Lake, IA 51360.